

U of L's Ramsey visits

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University of Louisville President James Ramsey spoke to Owensboro Rotary Club members Wednesday about Owensboro's importance at the college, highlighting community partnerships with Owensboro Medical Health System, Owensboro Public Schools and others.

"Owensboro is very important to the University of Louisville," Ramsey told the small luncheon crowd at the Owensboro Country Club. "We're invested in your home."

Drawing from U.S. Department of Labor statistics, he looked at state and national unemployment from 2002 to now.

"I'm an economist," he said. "I like numbers. Where two or more people are gathered, I give a short economics lesson."

Historically, Kentucky has been a manufacturing state, a coal mining state, he said.

"Coal will always be important to Kentucky," he said, "but those are not the growth industries of the future."

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics curricula, he said, are key to supporting long-term, economic recovery.

More than 300 students from Owensboro and Daviess County currently attend the university, Ramsey said, many of whom receive scholarships or participate in competitive programming.

Speaking to their contemporaries was part of Ramsey's Wednesday visit, said Mark Hebert, the University of Louisville's director of media relations. The president and a small group of university deans and administrators spoke to upperclassmen at Apollo and Daviess County high schools, he said, "less about how to get into college and more about what to take advantage of while you're there."

"These kids, they are already the best and brightest," Ramsey said. "They don't need our guidance on test scores or good grades. They've got that. Instead, we talked to them about specific programs and pointed them toward whatever financial aid might be most useful, that sort of thing. We want them at Louisville, yes, but mostly we want them to succeed."

Megan Harris, 691-7302, mharris@messenger-inquirer.com